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BATTLE FLEET READY

Men Are Happy at Prospect of Long Cruise.

WILL SHOW NAVAL NEEDS

Trip Regarded as Certain to Develop Defects in Training and Equipment-No Fleet of Such a Size Has Ever Before Made Such a Voyage, Declared President Roosevelt.

FLEET SUPPLIES.

Coal	130,000 tons
Cost of coal	\$1,309,000
Flour for the cruise	1,205,000 lbs.
Beef (fresh and tinned)	,000,000 lbs.
Ham.	400,000 lbs,
Tinned meats (other than beef)	200,000 lbs.
Salt pork	200,000 lbs,
Sausage	150,000 lbs.
Fowl	76,000 lbs.
Mutton	90,000 lbs,
Lard	85,000 lbs.
Potatoes	700,000 lbs.
Butter	150,000 lbs.
Fruits (dried and preserved)	300,000 lbs.
Coffee	100,000 lbs.
Tea	3,000 lbs.
Fresh eggs	24,000 doz.
Tinned vegetables	446,000 lbs.
Onions	95,000 lbs.
Rice	95,000 lbs.
Soap	65,000 lbs.
Tobacco	12,000 lbs.

The fleet which leaves Hampton Roads to-morrow on its 16,000-mile trip to the Pacific Coast has been officially designated by President Roosevelt as the

It is the first time in the history of the United States that the term "Battle Fleet" has been used in time of peace This is not because the fleet is going out to give battle, but because it would give battle if circumstances demanded such

The ostensible purpose, and the only purpose so far as has been given out and so far as the naval officers of the fleet know, of the cruise is for practice. That means the solution of problems of long-continued seamanship in concert, of supplying a great fleet with coal and provisions in out of the way places, and of target shooting.

Will Show Our Needs.

The President has said that the cruise to the Pacific will show what the needs of the navy are. It will bring out the defects in training and equipment, and the best means of correcting them will then be a matter for the Navy Department and Congress to deal with.

The President has declared that "It will be of very great educational use to all engaged in it.'

No matter what the real destination of the fleet may be, the naval importance of the movement may be summed up in these words of the President, from his recent annual message: "No fleet of such size has ever made such a voyage."

Statistics of Fleet.

of the sixteen battle ships will be in round auxiliary division numbers 223,000. There will be about 14,000 men-officers, sailors, and marineson board.

No less than 925 modern guns will be on the ships, from the monster 13-inch size which hurls projectiles weighing 1,130 pounds, down to the one-pounders and other machine guns that shoot small prowhich there will be 144.

lift 44,000 tons one foot. Although smaller leave will be granted to the sailors. than the 13-inch guns, they have greater

these sixty days will be spent in port renewing supplies and giving shore leave. Nearly 130,000 tons of coal will be con-

sumed, and the cost of it approximates \$1,300,000. Each ship will carry about 2,000 be the longest run of the voyage, a distons of supplies, varying from ammunition trance of 3,100 miles. The fleet will arrive

a half knots. It is probable that the ships will go in single file most of the way and tried in order to economize on coal. The be the order of that day. More than one will be kept rigorously.

scatter. It must be kept together compactly, so as to practice what Charles H. Cramp, the shipbuilder, once said was the be he officer, sailor, or marine, will "get greatest need of our navy-battle ship sea- his good." It is expected that the hazing

Only five stops will be made on the way to San Francisco. The first will be at the Port of Spain, Trinidad; the second at Rio de Janeiro; the third at Punta Are- 21 for Punta Arenas, a distance of 2,228 nas, in the Straits of Magellan; the fourth at Callao, Peru, and the fifth at

spent in Magdalena Bay for target prac-

After that the ships will go fo San Francisco, and then the problem of what to do with them, whether to bring them back in the same way or by way of Europe, leaving a large part of them in the Philippines, will probably be announced. The President in his message intimated that they might be brought back to the Atlantic coast by way of South America, and that cruises such as this, from one cific, coast to the other, should be the regular safety. thing hereafter at least once in two years.

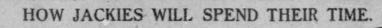
Previous Gatherings of Warships.

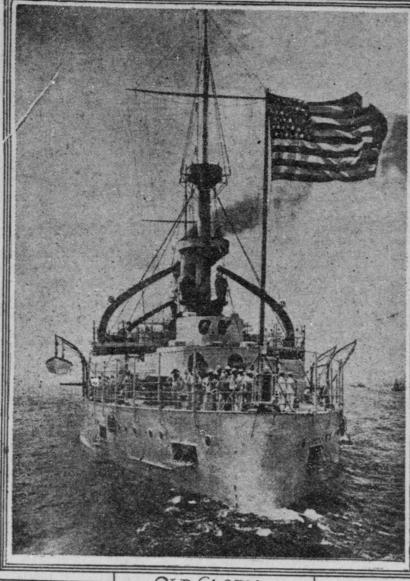
While it is true that "no fleet of such size has ever made such a voyage," it is not the largest fleet of battle ships ever assembled for evolution. It is the largest and strongest American fleet.

Only last fall Great Britain assembled no less than twenty-six modern battle ships and twenty armored cruisers for maneuvers in home waters. At Oyster Bay a year ago there were thirty-one American war ships of all kinds in the great review. At the opening of the Jamestown Exposition last April there were assembled for the President to review fifty-two war ships, counting the foreigners, and forty-three of them flew the Stars and Stripes.

But no American fleet has had the homogeneity of the one Admiral Evans is to take around South America. It is com posed exclusively of heavy fighters, the bulldogs, if naval dogs of war can be so

The four other ships that go along do not count, because two of them are strictly supply ships, one is a repair ship, and











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urpose is to furnish supplies from a shaft to a can of machine of and to see that all the little material wants that any great ship, not the men, may need are

The fleet is to be divided into two squadrons and four divisions. Admiral Evans will command the fleet, the first squadron and the first division. Each squadron will have eight battle ships, and

Rear Admiral Thomas will command the second squadron and the third division. Rear Admiral Emory will command the Here are some salient facts concerning the ships and the craise. The tonnage of the sixteen battle ships will be in round

Preceding the battle fleet there has been send ahead a flotilla of six torpedo-boat destroyers. They will be passed by the battle fleet in the Pacific Ocean between Punta Arenas and Callao

Itinerary of Fleet.

The fleet leaves Hampton Roads on December 16. It will arrive at Trinidad on jectiles. The most powerful weapons on December 24 and remain until December the fleet will be the 12-inch guns, of 29. It is expected that nothing will be done there except to coal the ships. Some These guns shoot projectiles weighing of the officers may take a trip to the cele 870 pounds, with a muzzle energy of 2,700 brated pitch lake, where the asphalt that feet a second and a muzzle velocity of 44,- paves a farge part of our streets comes 1000 foot tons; that is, a power that could from, but it is not likely that any shore

The distance from Hampton Roads to Trinidad is 1,850 miles, and with the ex-The length of the voyage will be 13,772 ception of the run from Magdalena Bay miles; and it is expected that 135 days to San Francisco, about 1,500 miles, will will be occupied in making the trip. Of be the shortest reach on the voyage. Christmas will be celebrated at Trinidad. and it will be of the usual merrymaking type aboard ship.

Then it will be a hustle to get coal in the bunkers and start for Rio. This will to the smallest thing necessary for the there on January 11 and the stay will be larder. The cruising speed will be about ten and the men, probably about 3,000 at a time.

Crossing the Equator, On the trip down from Trinidad the that no evolution or maneuvers will be equator will be crossed. High jinks will ships will be at intervals of 400 yards, and half of the sallors have never crossed the in fair weather, storm, or fog that interval line. The sailors were preparing for the Under no circumstances will the fleet fore the ships left the ports where they were overhauled.

> Every one who has not crossed the line will occupy a good part of the day. It will be a day of fun such as the Ameri- the Georgia, and the Connecticut class. can navy has never seen

miles, arriving there on January 31. mont will be in the first division, are of Magdalena Bay, in Lower California.

Punta Arenas is a desolate port of about 16,000 tons displacement, with a speed of Five days each will be spent at Trini- 1,200 speople, well inside the Straits of eighteen knots, each carrying 2,300 tons of Punta Arenas is a desolate port of about dad and Punta Arenas, and ten days each at Rio and Callao. Thirty days will be Terra del Fuego on the other of the strait. four 12-inch, eight 8-inch, twelve 7-inch. Nothing but coaling will be done there. Leaving there on February 5, the really dangerous part of the journey will begin. For nearly 400 miles the ships must steer through crooked straits, without chance of harbor or of anchorage. It is necesthe most dangerous part of the trip of daylight. All that day and that night will be occupied in getting into the Pawhen there will be comparative when there will be comparative from the Georgia class in only small mathral trip to the most dangerous part of the trip to the Maine class is of 12,000 tons, with a speed of eighteen knots, and a coal capacity of 2,000 tons. The armament differs the Georgia class in only small mathral trip to the most dangerous part of the the most danger

lation Island are found along that reach. It is said that out of the fifty-two wrecks a speed of 17 knots and a coal capacity in the straits in about ten years exactly of 1,300 tons. The armament is along the twenty-six of the vessels lost had names same lines as that of the Maine class,

The Fleet's Itinerary.

Dec. 9 Dec. 16, 1907

.Jan. 11 Jan. 21, 1908

Jan. 31 Feb. 5, 1908

. Feb. 18 Feb. 28, 1908

.. (Probably May 1)

... Mar. 14

*The exact dates of departure from Magdalena

Bay and of arrival at San Francisco are un-

target practice in Magdalena Bay.

known, as they depend upon the completion of

.... Dec. 24 Dec. 29, 1907

Port

Hampton Roads.

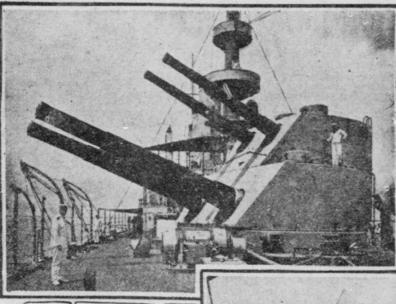
Rio de Janeiro

Pimta Arenas.

Magdalena Bay

San Francisco*...

DECK OF AN AMERICAN WAR SHIP.





Signalling

flag ship of the squadron because it is the The great danger in the straits lies

From Punta Arenas to Callao the run s 2,666 miles. Callao will be reached on February 18, for a stay of ten days, to oal ship and grant shore leaves.

Then comes a reach of about 3,050 miles to Magdalena Bay, arriving there on March 14 for a month's target practice. The fleet will be hidden most of the time The target practice results and experiments are one of the things about which nothing definite is to be printed, the Navy

Department reserving such information for study and to be kept in confidence.

Five Classes of Battle Ships.

Five distinct classes of battle ships are represented in the fleet, popularly known as the Kentucky, the Alabama, the Maine, The newer types come first in the line. The Connecticut type, of which the Connecticut, Louisiana, Kansas, and Ver-16,000 tons displacement, with a speed of twelve 3-inch, and twenty smaller guns. The complement of men is 800.

placement, with a speed of nineteen The coal capacity is 1,700 tons. The 6-inch guns are used in place of the sary to start at midnight so as to reach of 3-inch guns there are numerous six-

The Alabama class is of 11,500 tons, with beginning with the letter C. Some of the Bringing up the rear of the battle ships

Ships That Are Going.

Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

Lieut. Hutch I. Cone
(Commanding flotilla.)
Lieut. Alfred G. Howe
Lieut. Frank McCommons
Lieut. Julius F. Hellweg
Lieut. Charles S. Kerrick
Ensign Ernest Friedrick

DETAILS OF THE PACIFIC CRUISE.

will be the Kentucky and Kearsage line. The sailors were preparing for the fun of initiating the greenhorns long be- to San Francisco, which will be reached several years ago, but which will prob-These will carry the only 13-inch guns in probably in the last week of April, when ably be renewed in the Delaware type, there will be more festivities.

Several years ago, but which will probably in the last week of April, when ably be renewed in the Delaware type, which is now being built, and which is are being flashed from ship to ship, litcoal capacity of 1,500 tons.

Advance in Ten Years.

ng in existence at the time of the Spanish war. The fleet therefore will display more than any other exhibit could show the great advance that has been made in American naval affairs in ten years. When the Spanish war came the United States had only four battle ships-the Inthe journey of the battle fleet.

Elements of Grandeur.

take on anything of the spectacular, be- by the British government. ause of the need of making every pound grandeur." The destructive power of such these dispatches a week ago. Public disa fleet can hardly be put down in figures and analogy can scarcely indicate its ex-

Although few evolutions will take place on the voyage, there will be plenty doing all the time. Signals will be hoisted and answered constantly, the wireless tele-graph on the ships will be working all the German Ruler Wants Only Large pointed schedules, and the general routing of keeping the vessels up to the mark. shipshape and Bristol fashion, will be

Wireless Telephones.

A novelty in the work of the ships on wireless telephone. It is said that the ex- den. perimental stage has been passed and He insisted that all should be large kind relating to the method of what is ished ospreys from English society.

weapons at exactly the right instant.

The officers of the American navy have worked out the problem and it will be put to the severest test during this It is because this is to be the greatest cruise ever undertaken that digression is made again into the realm of statistics. Various estimates have been printed of the amount of supplies needed for the cruise. None of them is official. The officers of one ship have ordered no less than 50,000 cigars for personal use to be put on board. That supply will last fully a year.

known as fire control. This means the

method employed to get the exact range of an enemy's ships and to insure the dis-charge of the guns at exactly the right

This matter of securing the range is the

greatest preliminary problem of battle. Range finders are used in all our forts

with absolute accuracy. They have been used on ships with good results, but there are defects in their work, owing to the delicate nature of the instruments, and the limited base of operation, and other

measures are being devised in every navy to secure the ranges and the discharge of

instant to hit the enemy.

Uncle Sam no longer allows the sailors so much for their food and permits them to buy their own supplies. He now pays for everything and feeds them mighty

Even the menus of all the messes of the Jack Tars are submitted to the admiral. He sees to it that the best of wholesome food is provided for the men on all the boats.

The officers get a small allowance bout 30 cents a day, for their food. They take that sum and then provide their own

EAGER TO SAIL.

Continued from Page One.

to see these same storm-stayed officers taking breakfast in the public diningrooms of the Chamberlin in their evening clothes.

The launches soon came dashing to the floats in the rain, and by 10 o'clock all the belated officers were back on their ships and in appropriate costumes.

The clouds lifted at noon. Women came lown from their rooms, frush batches of officers came ashore for luncheon and to say the words they may have forgotten to say last night. Soon the Chamberlin corridors and observation parlors were filled. The women dominated everything There were ship talk, dance talk, reunic talk-in fact, every kind of small tall that such a gathering might be expected to bring forth. For gayety was the dom inant note. One of Admiral Evans' sta summed it up in this way:

Praise for Brave Women.

"This happy scene is just like laughte at a funeral. These women will say goodby with smiles and will show their nerve by waving hands and 'kerchiefs bravely but two minutes after the fleet starts the tears will be rolling down their cheeks. Ten minutes later the corridors of this hotel will be deserted, and upstairs there will be pillows drenched, and the one prayer will be, 'Bring him back safely.' They are true good fellows, these women, God bless them,' is already on the lips of every man in the fleet."

The storm has caused the general reception that Admiral and Mrs. Evans vere to give to-night on the flagship Conecticut to be called off. On every ship, owever, there will be dinner parties. In ome of the wardrooms the captains will dine with the guests of the other officers

as a special mark of consideration. There also will be dinner parties at the Chamberlin and the army post here. Admiral Evans has remained on shore all day and has been holding a continuous levee in the hotel. He had the satisfac tion of sending a dispatch yesterday to fleet was ready to start on an i who had declared that it would be in ssible to have all the ships prepared fully by December 16, the day of starting.

Jackies Play Football.

Jack had his play ashore this afternoon. The men of the Kansas and Vermont fought out the football champion ship of the fleet in the presence of thou sands. Kansas won by a score of 4 to 2 on a field behind the ramparts of Fort Monroe, that made the game look like contest in water polo.

After the game the victors and van-quished, each headed by their ship's band and young officers, and followed by the first class men of each ship on shore marched down to the Chamberlin to chee stration from the thousands there. The Vermont's men were in the rear, but they cheered their opponents vigorously. Their mascot goat, made conspicuous by his green bordered blanket, made dash to chew up one of the Kansas' sun-flower flags, but he was caught in time The Jack tars showed their enthusias for the cruise by hurrying aboard their

"We won't have a dozen deserters in the entire fleet," said a captain who was returning from the football game. "The same spirit shown on that field is what is animating the men on ship. If there's any trouble ahead they want to be

The Game of Love and War. To-night there is nothing but gayety ashore and affoat. The vessels are all expected to surpass the great Dread-nought of the British navy.

The Kentucky class is of 11.500 tons with a speed of about 16.5 knots and a coal capacity of 1.500 tons. about those more slender, and the old game of love and war is being played All of the ships of the fleet are of dis- again as it has been played for hundreds finctly modern type, not one of them be- of years, when men have gone away clad in the habits of conflict.

DENY BRYCE WILL RETIRE.

London Papers Point Out That He Has Not Asked for Leave.

London, Dec. 14.-The papers to-night iana, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Iowa. print emphatic denials of the report from The eyes of the nation were centered on Washington that Right Hon. James the performance of the Oregon in her celebrated trip from San Francisco to the Atlantic coast, practically a duplicate of United States, may be retired in the near She was sixty-two days in making the It is pointed out that the Ambassador

will reach the age limit next year, and while it is possible that the time will be Although the cruise will probably not extended, yet such action is rarely taken It is also announced that he has not

of coal count for pulling power, it will applied for leave of absence. This is have what Capt. A. T. Mahan, the great quite true, but there is no reason to alter naval expert, calls "certain elements of the statement regarding the matter in cussion of the report may possibly cause but up to the present there has been

BUYS HATS FOR EMPRESS.

Ones with Ostrich Feathers.

London, Dec. 14 .- According to unanimous opinion the Kaiser reached further heights of temerity and courage than ever before penetrated when he bought the Empress a collection of hats this cruise will be a practical test of the on the eve of ais departure from Lon-

that for distances of from two to three and that there should be ostrich feathmiles already conversations have taken place between war ships, at anchor and in motion, by the wireless telephone. in motion, by the wireless telephone.

One of the things on which a strict inhibition is placed is publication of any ticle of adornment has willingly ban-

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Ladies' Hand-made Crochet Slippers, in all shades; 75c Ladies' Feit Sole Slippers, Leather Sole Cloth Slippers, in gray, brown, bide, red, and black; also Kid Slippers and Crash Bath Slippers; all colors, at.....

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